

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 541  
By McDaniel

A RESOLUTION to honor Don Cartee, gentleman farmer, breeder of Tennessee Walking Horses, country music entrepreneur, and friend to all animals and persons.

WHEREAS, Don Cartee resides at Cartee Farm on Old Hillsboro Road, a 100-acre tract of beautiful farmland located on the Harpeth River, and is a devoted son to Melvyn and Rebecca Cartee, sibling to brothers Allen, a man of great friendliness and a veritable whirlwind of energy (and possessing a mean Elvis impression — “thankyouverymuch”) and Brent, who has been described as a man who would give you the shirt off his back; and

WHEREAS, Don has lovingly raised and boarded Tennessee Walking Horses for more than 20 years, and his equine family now consists of 70 horses, two magnificent stallions-- Perfect Cut, a five time Walking Horse world champion owned by Don Williams and placed under Don’s excellent care, and Delight’s Night Watch, a/k/a Icky,--Don’s personal Walking Horse and the first of the two “loves of his life”, as well as numerous beloved and healthy Walking Horse babies and he is also a doting parent to his beloved Jack Russell Terrier, Tinkerbelle (love of his life #2), whose size and name notwithstanding, carries herself with an air of supreme confidence and dignity; and

WHEREAS, Don recognizes the individuality of every horse on his property--it’s personality, strengths, fears and weaknesses, daily habits and change of habits--and personally

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oversees the birth of every new foal, imprinting them shortly after their arrival so that they may thrive in the human world without fear; and

WHEREAS, in the Cartee Farm list of outstanding personalities, not to be overlooked are Tony the Pony, the elderly, but still feisty and virile Shetland stallion, Rocket's Trinia Ann, a/k/a "Blackie", an equally ancient, but much loved Walking Horse mare, and mother to several outstanding Walking Horse foals; Cleopatra, the adorable, but very stout pony; Tommie, the dactylic-enhanced barn cat, who excels at her given profession as nemesis of all things rodent; and last but certainly not least, C.J., the Biblical donkey, whose cheerfully raucous calls to his associate at the neighboring farm can pierce eardrums for great distances; and

WHEREAS, Don, being a multi-faceted business man, is also involved in the growing, brokering and selling of hay, and contrary to the Harvard School of Business and Economic Management, has been known to extend credit and kindness to customers who are in straitened circumstances; and

WHEREAS, Don Cartee has had a long, continuing and successful professional career in country music and rock and roll, and has worked with such well known artists as Hank Williams, Jr., B.J. Thomas, and notably, Dr. Hook, just three of numerous stars who crossed professional paths with Don and his brother Allen; and

WHEREAS, during this period of musical endeavors, Don was blessed to gain the friendship of two special country music entertainers, Johnny Cash and Waylon Jennings, relationships which have had special significance to the Cartee family and which have stood the test of time; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, Don decided to realize his dream of having a successful and thriving public boarding facility – a place where others could board, ride, and train their horses in a variety of disciplines and could come together to indulge their love of all things equine in a friendly, warm and fun atmosphere; and in the fall of that year, with the help of his brother Allen,

(the veritable whirlwind described above), began to make that dream a reality — thus forever shattering, but in a nice way, the peace and tranquility of Cartee Farm; and

WHEREAS, with the opening of the public facility came a group of equestriennes (calling themselves hunter-jumper people), replete in velvet hunt caps and tall boots who arrived at the picturesque barn — speaking in tongues on matters such as finding the distance, swapping leads, and other mysterious jargon; and

WHEREAS, Don immediately impressed the newcomers with his kindness, generosity, knowledge and deep love of horses and, possessing a keen sensitivity to other people, took some of the more inexperienced newcomers under his wing, providing equine advice on innumerable horse problems, conscientiously nursing even the most insignificant scratch, educating these new riders in all things equine-related, keeping a keen, watchful eye over the entire brood and quietly giving his support and encouragement to those riders who lacked the requisite confidence; and when coming to visit, Don's boarders have often found that he has trekked through the pasture (frequently muddy) to escort their horse up to the barn (thus saving them a trip through the muck), "just because he thought they might want to give their equine friend a hug"; and

WHEREAS, Don is now surrounded by such notable equines as Gabrielle a/k/a "The Cupcake", Romeo, Hamilton, Texas, Beemer, Anna, Petey, and a host of other four-footed friends; and the perfect day for him is one spent at his barn, surrounded by children, ponies, grown-ups and horses, all laughing, talking and jockeying for position at the shower stall, cross ties and tack trunks; and

WHEREAS, nowhere is Don's love of his "equine children" more evident than during an unexpected February snowstorm, the end of which found Don in his barn surrounded by winter weary horses, whom he had brought in from the elements, and established his own "Equine Health Spa" as he rubbed, curried, wrapped, snuggled and generally thawed out his beloved

charges, and in the process, endeared himself to the horses' owners for life and ensured his nomination for sainthood; and

WHEREAS, Don Cartee personifies a true gentleman — one who has respect for those who can be of no possible service to him, always possesses a friendly smile and greeting to all who see him and who lives his life by principles such as honor, integrity, honesty and respect for all things — man and beast, and in whose mind, all living things are created equal; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That this body pauses to honor and officially recognize Don Cartee for his many contributions to horses and those who love them.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.